

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 3. This sheet, which includes Figure 3, replaces the original sheet including Figure 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, and 4 are pending in the present application; Claim 1 is amended and Claim 2 is cancelled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed February 25, 2004 was indicated as not compliant with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2); Figure 3 was objected to for not having a "Background Art" label; Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Takayama (U.S. Patent No. 5,483,209); Claims 3 and 4 were indicated as allowable; and Claim 2 was objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was otherwise indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Initially, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

In response to the indication of non-compliance of the IDS filed February 25, 2004, Applicant submits that the Statement of Relevancy and the copy of the Japanese reference, 6-196724, herein "reference AO", were compliant when submitted because the Statement of Relevancy is compliant with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)(i). For Examiner's convenience, a copy of the IDS, the Japanese reference AO, and the Statement of Relevancy are provided herewith. Applicants respectfully request confirmation of consideration of reference AO Cited on the noted IDS be provided by returning a new initialed form PTO-1449 indicating consideration of reference AO.

In response to the objection of Figure 3, Figure 3 is amended to include a "Background Art" label.

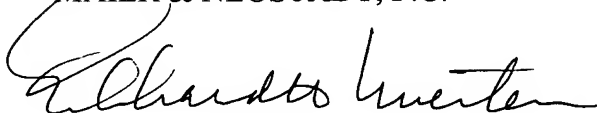
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the objection be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Claim 1 is presently amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 2. Accordingly, Claim 2 is cancelled.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and foregoing discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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